M.R.A.C HAMATEUR CHATTER

Bulletin of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.
The World's Oldest Continuously Operating Radio Amateur Club.

Vol. 2 - No. 1 OCT. 1950

MOBILE UNITS FEATURE PARADE

ZEIDLER CONGRATULATES CLUB

As a climax to a month long series of spectacular events in and around the county the Mobile Division of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club featured the Good Neighbor Community Fund Drive parade on Sunday, Oct. 1.

Under the direction of Charley Kaetel, W9SNK, and Jack Pettigrew, W9QEZ, 35 club members in 20 mobile units guided the 12 parade sections down Highland Ave., over to Kilbourn and then to the lake front. 25,000 spectators witnessed the two hour parade.

It was the first time a local parade has received the cooperation of radio amateurs in order to prevent long separations between units and to provide instantaneous communication for the parade marshalls. The mobile stations also were used to call two ambulances for the police department and the latter responded instantly.

Mayor Frank P. Zeidler greeted the club via W9FTY mobile as the parade ended. He took the microphone and reiterated his oft spoken feelings that communications in emergencies in Milwaukee were in good hands as long as they were under the direction of the M.R.A.C. The Milwaukee Sentinel headlined its story on the event "City Hams Blanket Parade; Win Praise From Zeidler."

Earlier in the day, several of the mobile units assisted in bringing the parade's floats down to the starting point from the assembly area at State Fair Park in West Allis.

Color movies were made of the event to provide a permanent record. It will probably be shown at a club meeting later in the season.

CLUB MEMBER IN INCHON INVASION

When Fred Zolin received a message from a Riverside, California ham on 20 meters recently for relay to a Milwaukee addressee, there was no tag of anything unusual on it, even though it originated from Guam. He delivered the message, got the usual thanks and that was that. Or was it?

The message was a "safe arrival" report from James K. Douglas, W9DR, to his wife in Milwaukee and to his company, the Oilgear Co., here. Jim headed out from Guam as a civilian technician for his firm and was assigned to the United States 7th fleet to make tests of hydraulic pump equipment, installed on the ships, under battle conditions.

The battle conditions came during the now well known invasion at Inchon that led to the capture of Seoul. He operated from several carriers and other ships in the fleet. He spent more than a week with the fleet off Inchon.

After completing his tests, the only way for him to get back to the mainland was via Kimpo airfield. So while Seoul was still in enemy hands, he hitched a ride to Kimpo, then in American hands for only two days. He reported that radio communications at the airdrome were carried on from rigs resting on the ground in the open air. But planes were coming in and out of the field every 98 seconds.

He finally hitched another ride to Japan and had an uneventful trip home, arriving this time before a second message from Guam via ham radio reached Milwaukee. He related his experiences to the club at a meeting shortly after hitting his home port.

TOP FLIGHT SPEAKER

The club has scheduled Prof. Frank Karioris, head of the Physics department at Marquette University to speak at an early meeting. Prof. Karioris, famous in his field, will discuss the Geiger Counter. The subject should prove a valuable and interesting topic in this day of atomic security rules.

IS THAT ME?

That's no echo off the heaviside layer, Junior, that's your own signal being pushed right back at you. W9LCD and W9TPT both are using their new wire recorders on ten meters when you might least expect it. It makes for a lot of fun and in the bargain you find the most vivid method of comparing your signal with the other fellow's and getting an honest-to-goodness speech report. Frank, W9TPT, recently recorded and played back both ends of another QSO. The difference the comparison showed up between the two stations and their speech capabilities set one of the operators off on a "bug" hunt. It's a lot different getting a report that you are modulating 60 per cent when you hear yourself only modulating a little more than half the distance to the goal line.

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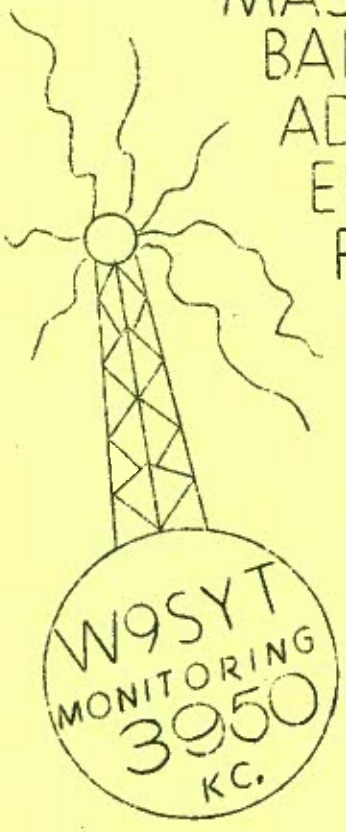

CENTRAL

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M R A C

AMATEUR CHATTER

Published periodically by the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. in the interest of the membership and amateur radio.

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MOBILE NOTES

Mobile Wing chairman H. Charles Kaetel, W9SNK (Charley to the boys) reports that many civic groups planning future events in the city have contacted him since the big success of the Community Fund parade. Seems that there has been a sudden awakening caused by the flashy performances recently. The Mobile Wing pulled off a coup in the Soap Box Derby this past summer, too, providing communications between the start and finish lines.

In a demonstration of long range, ground wave emergency communications on ten meters, several of the Mobile stations in cooperation with the Chicagoland Mobile club recently sent a message from Juneau Park in Milwaukee to Whiting, Ind., and back. The cars were stationed along the route at distances allowing 100 per cent contact at all times. In preparing for the tests, an earlier group moved a message to the state line and back.

The Journal called Jack Pettigrew's convertible "Colonel Westphal's Command Car," in the big parade. The Colonel has been Milwaukee's parade marshall for the past several decades.

Following are the call letters of the 19 mobiles in the parade:

W9QEZ, W9IZH, W9IDW, W9EKU, W9KKX, W9UAM, W9BPR, W9IDV, W9ANA, W9QFL, W9FDX, W9WK, W9FNC, W9UMX, W9IFS, W9FTY, W9IBP, W9NRX, W9SNK.

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The treasurer wishes to call the attention of the members that if any have a change of address or a new phone number to let him know at once so that when the roster for 1951 goes to press, the middle of November, that it will be correct. All dues must be paid in full in order to be listed in the new roster.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our most recent contact with official Washington indicates no change in the general amateur situation. As result of the unsettled Korean situation, our Washington contacts are keeping abreast of all developments.

The Midwest ARRL Convention at Des Moines, October 21 and 22, will see many of amateur radio's leaders in attendance. Mr. Budlong of our staff will be present, as will also representatives of the FCC, Army and Navy. We will attempt to appraise any changes that they may have noted since our last meeting at Detroit in May of this year.

There is no news on Docket 9295. Color television has been occupying much of the FCC's time, with the result that a considerable back-log of work has piled up on them. There is no truth to the rumor that Docket 9295 has been pigeonholed.

Five year license renewals will begin next year. With the current military situation, many amateurs are or will be in the armed forces either as the result of enlistment or induction. These people will find it difficult or impossible to meet the "activity" requirements in our amateur regulations. We are laying this problem before the amateur section of FCC, having in mind that before the year-end a suitable amendment to the rules could be made to provide for these cases. The Commission is favorably inclined and we anticipate no difficulty in working this matter out satisfactorily.

Our ARRL planning Board has recommended that 29640 become a set-aside frequency in Mobile operation. Further with regard to the 3.5 Mc Band they feel that there is 100 Kc of this band which might be more effectively used by U.S. amateurs. Reference is made to 3750-3850 Kc. This is now exclusively VE phone (with very little CW activity noted there).

Our recommendation is that the League Secretary request FCC to establish 3800-3850 as a Class A Mobile sub-allocation. By mobile is meant "automobile" either in motion or stationary--but with regular mobile antenna and without external power supply. If at a later date, Class A privileges are extended downward to 3800 Kc, then it is our recommendation that the Class A Mobile sub-allocation be moved to 3750-3800 Kc. We feel quite sure that QRM to VE phones from our lower power mobiles will not be enough to cause them to drop another 50 Kc.

Alec Reid, our Canadian General Manager, has agreed to give it a trial.

Remember, there is a place for EVERY amateur in the Emergency Corps, whether you own a mobile or not, or whether you own a rig at present--- there is a job to do for EVERYBODY with a license. Drop the editor a line if you can't get down to Club meetings.

Jack Doyle, W9GPI
Director, Central Division

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Sell or Swap

Beginning in the next issue of Hamateur Chatter, the members can submit ads to be published free of charge. Send all ads to Ellis Saxton, business manager. The ad must be not more than 3 lines. An example is shown below.

SELL: Converter XHF152, 2-6-10 mtrs. Excellent condx. $65. HQ129X, nearly new $130. C.N. Watts, W9ZZZ, Milw. 10

DX CONTEST PACEMAKER

Russ. Greenwood, W9LVR, using W9ROM, was top man for Wisconsin in the ARRL's sixteenth annual DX competition. The mere entering of any DX competition in these days of QRM and specialized knowledge and equipment necessary takes a lot of guts. The other day one of the boys on 20 CW happened to be "just going by" his home QTH at 2:30 PM so he stopped in to see if the band was open. He heard a "rare one" calling CQ so he cracked up the rock crusher. By the time the DX station stopped calling there were at least fifteen other signals to be heard on the channel from coast to coast all knocking their heads together in the probability of a 50 to 1 chance of making the contact. Something rare in DX happened the other night on the same band. Another local was working a KL7 and during the contact the usual number of jerks swished onto the channel with their ECO's, tuned up, tested and generally made themselves obnoxious. So the KL7 said, "We'll show 'em. You and I'll get into a good old fashioned rag chew, and let these guys stew in their own juice." So he proceeded to work the Milwaukee station for approximately 90 minutes.

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT BOOMS

Doubling in brass as Publicity Chairman, President Fred Zolin, W9ONY, has been doing a tremendous job in getting the club and its doings before the public. During one stretch of ten days, amateur radio news made the Journal and Sentinel with pictures and stories six times. Nothing like it before has ever happened. In addition to a lot of newsworthy items generated by the club's activities which the newspapers ordinarily are glad to receive, Fred has the additional advantage of performing the wire chief's duties at the local Western Union offices. His pipe line is made to order as he merely drops a story into the hopper and it turns up on the city editor's desk in a matter of minutes.

OLD FAITHFUL

That perennial campaigner, Emil Felber, W9RH, has again turned up at the head table at meetings as guardian of the "black book" and chancellor of the exchequer. Emil has been club treasurer more times than most members care to remember, and the story has it that he still has the first nickel the club took in as dues stashed away behind an old 01A carton in his shack. It's fellows like Emil and a few others that are responsible for that proud slogan "The World's Oldest Continuously Operating Radio Amateur Club". Let's make Emil's job easier by paying our dues on time.

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Be sure to attend the amateur radio club meetings every Thursday evening, held in the Milwaukee Library Conference meeting room.

TVI BUGABOO

W9EAN hit the nail on the noggin the other night on Ten Meters when he remarked that a goodly portion of the stations capable of operation on that band were staying off the air in the early evenings for the obvious reason of TVI. Now that the local TV outlet is on until midnight, conscientous hams that are desirous of keeping peace with their neighbors are allowed too few of the precious hours ordinarily available for ground wave contacts. W9EAN suggested a more concerted drive by a live-wire TVI committee to assist those hams now having trouble to clear up the difficulties. The death of stations on the band has caused a lot of the mobiles to go up to 20 and 75.

LOUIE MOWS 'EM DOWN

Louie Wollaeger, W9ANA, who has been in charge of the technical goings on at club meetings more often than he has not, caught a few of the "brains" (Doyle, Scarvaci, Collins et al) with their answers down during a recent question and answer bee. Louie took up the license manual, which has not been perused by some of the old-timers for fifteen or twenty years, and the youngsters had the answers down verbatim, while the Class B queries were fumbled by some of those who probably knew better.

ATOM BOMB OR HAM LOCATION?

The Journal recently ran a story to the effect that many former city dwellers were suddenly finding an interest in the far suburbs and in farms. Purchase of country estates were on the upswing, and the real estate editor felt that the possibility of an atom bomb explosion might have put the bee in the many bonnets. Milwaukee radio amateurs have joined the exodus, but for another reason. The farsighted hams have spread out all the way to Thiensville, in through Waukesha county and down along the southern tip of the county. It pays dividends, too, when the lack of TVI and general advantage of no receiving noise on the high frequencies is considered.

SUBSTITUTE FOR BRUNO

Ever since Bruno Plitzko, W9LAD, resigned from the police force and W9DK, listeners on the short waves have been without the rich old-time Milwaukee German brogue that was once part of the local scene. No more though. New to Milwaukee but not to the middlewest or ham radio is W9NQH, Paul V. Hoecher. Paul recently arrived from Bremerton, Washington where he had W7NQH. Before that he managed a hotel in Lake Forest, Ill., and is now with Ace Foods on Wisconsin Ave., here. Paul's booming signal with its old-Dutch modulation on ten meters is most reminiscent of W9LAD. Paul received most of his schooling in France, according to reports.

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